

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate



Dean Cannon
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

March 8, 2012

The Honorable Dean Cannon
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 1996, 1st Eng., same being:

An act relating to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 1.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

Representative Denise Grimsley, Chair

Representative Gary Aubuchon, At-Large

Representative Jeffrey Brandes

Representative Douglas Vaughn Broxson

Representative Charles S. Chestnut IV, At-Large

Representative Brad Drake

Representative Doug Holder, At-Large

Representative Mia L. Jones, At-Large

Representative Carlos Lopez-Cantera, At-Large

Representative Peter Nehr

Representative Franklin Sands, At-Large

Representative Robert C. Schenck, At-Large

Representative Will W. Weatherford, At-Large

Representative Mike Horner, Lead Manager

Representative Mack Bernard

Representative Jason T. Brodeur

Representative Rachel V. Burgin

Representative Chris Dorworth, At-Large

Representative James C. Frishe, At-Large

Representative Dorothy L. Hukill, At-Large

Representative John Legg, At-Large

Representative Seth McKeel, At-Large

Representative Hazelle P. Rogers

Representative Ron Saunders, At-Large

Representative William D. Snyder, At-Large

Representative Ritch Workman

Managers on the part of the Senate

Senator JD Alexander, Chair

Senator Thad Altman

Senator Michael S. Bennett, At-Large

Senator Oscar Braynon

Senator Charles S. Dean

Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla

Senator Greg Evers

Senator Anitere Flores

Senator Rene Garcia

Senator Audrey Gibson

Senator Alan Hays

Senator Arthenia L. Joyner, At-Large

Senator Evelyn J. Lynn

Senator Bill Montford

Senator Steve Oelrich

Senator Garrett Richter

Senator Maria Lorts Sachs

Senator Gary Siplin

Senator Joe Negron, Vice Chair

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto

Senator Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff

Senator Larcenia J. Bullard

Senator Nancy C. Detert

Senator Paula Dockery

Senator Mike Fasano

Senator Don Gaetz, At-Large

Senator Andy Gardiner, At-Large

Senator Mike Haridopolos

Senator Dennis L. Jones

Senator Jack Latvala

Senator Gwen Margolis

Senator Jim Norman

Senator Nan H. Rich, At-Large

Senator Jeremy Ring

Senator David Simmons

Senator Christopher L. Smith

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Senator Eleanor Sobel

Senator Ronda Storms

Senator John Thrasher, At-Large

Senator Stephen R. Wise

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 1996, Department of Economic Opportunity, provides for the following:

Section 1 repeals s. 49 of chapter 2011-47, Laws of Florida, thereby abrogating the future expiration of an amendment to s. 163.3247(3), F.S., which amendment eliminated the travel and per diem reimbursement for members of the Century Commission.

Section 2 repeals s. 51 of chapter 2011-47, Laws of Florida, thereby abrogating the future expiration of an amendment to s. 201.15(1)(c)2., F.S., which amendment eliminated the distribution of documentary stamp tax revenues to the Century Commission.

Section 3 requires the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to jointly conduct an audit and review of the programs and operations of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. A work plan for such audit and review must be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than July 1, 2012. The audit and review shall encompass, at a minimum, a review of the corporation's assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses, the internal management, financial and operational controls employed, the programmatic decision-making processes used, the governance, direction and oversight provided by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board of Directors, and the performance outcomes of the programs administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The audit and review shall also include formulation of recommendations to the Legislature for changes to the structure, governance and operational processes of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Unless otherwise directed in writing jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a written report on the audit and review shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2012. This section shall be effective upon this act becoming law.

Section 4 amends s. 420.507, F.S., to authorize the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to utilize up to 10 percent of its annual allocation of low-income housing tax credits, allocation of nontaxable revenue bonds, and State Apartment Incentive Loan Program funds appropriated by the Legislature and available to allocate by request for proposals or other competitive solicitation funding for high-priority affordable housing projects, such as housing to support economic development and job creation initiatives, housing for veterans and their families, and other special needs populations in communities throughout the state as determined by the corporation on an annual basis.

Section 5 amends s. 420.5087 to authorize the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) to accept payment of deferred program interest at an interest rate that is consistent with rates currently authorized in law, provided the deferred interest is paid in not more than five equal annual installments. This section also provides authority for additional SAIL funding to preserve existing projects having financing guaranteed under the Florida Affordable Housing Guarantee Program. Projects shall be given priority for funding which meet specified criteria. The maximum amount that may be funded is \$ 2,500,000 per project, and authority for such funding expires on June 30, 2013.

Section 6 amends s. 445.009, F.S., to remove the expiration date from a subsection which provides that a participant in a Workforce Services One-stop delivery system work experience program shall be deemed an employee of the state for purposes of worker's compensation coverage.

Section 7 directs the DEO to prepare draft legislation to conform the Florida Statutes to the provisions of this act, and to submit such draft legislation to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before October 1, 2012.

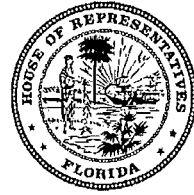
Section 8 provides that if the governing body of an independent special district that provides water, wastewater, and sanitation services in a disproportionately affected county as defined in s. 288.106(8), determines that a new user or the expansion of an existing user of one or more of its utility systems will provide a significant benefit to the community in terms of increased job opportunities, economies of scale, or economic development in the area, the governing body may authorize a reduction of its rates, fees, or charges for that user for a specified period of time. A governing body that exercises this power must do so by resolution that states the anticipated economic benefit justifying the reduction as well as the period of time that the reduction remains in place.

Section 9 provides that, except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 1998, 1st Eng., same being:

An act relating to transportation.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 1.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 1998, relating to transportation, provides for the following:

- Redirects a portion of title fees from the General Revenue Fund to the State Transportation Trust Fund, resulting in \$200 million of new revenue for transportation, which will be transferred to the General Revenue Fund in Fiscal Year 2012-13;
- Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013-14, the revenues will be allocated to transportation priorities, including:
 - \$10 M – Seaport Investment Program (\$100 M Bonded);
 - \$35 M - Turnpike Enterprise (\$350 M Bonded);
 - \$10 M - Transportation Disadvantaged Program;
 - \$10 M - Small County Outreach Program; and
 - \$135 M - Strategic Transportation Projects
- FDOT, utilizing its unique commitment based financing, can leverage the funding for Small County Outreach and Strategic Transportation Projects (\$145 million) to program \$285 million of new commitment in FY 2013-14 and \$915 million over the 5 Year Work Program.
- Transfers the Transportation Economic Development “Road Fund” program from the Department of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Transportation (FDOT or department);
- Renames ch. 311, F.S., “Seaport Programs and Facilities”; and substantially amends the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) program;
- Provides a minimum of \$15 million per year from the State Transportation Trust Fund for the FSTED grant program;
- Creates s. 311.10, F.S., entitled the Strategic Port Investment Initiative, which directs \$35 million annually towards projects which are selected jointly by FDOT and the deepwater ports listed in s. 311.09, F.S.;
- Creates s. 311.101, F.S., entitled the Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support Program, which allocates \$5 million per year towards funding up to 50% of the eligible costs of local government or private projects that meet certain criteria;
- Amends several sections of law relating to highway safety and commercial driver licenses to bring the state law into compliance with federal law and regulations;
- Repeals the transfer of \$5 million annually from the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund to the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund;
- Repeals the Toll Facility Revolving Trust Fund and transfers those revenues and future revenues to the State Transportation Trust Fund;
- Provides financial protection to the state for its obligations for Wekiva Parkway construction;
- Creates s. 339.139, F.S. entitled Transportation Debt Assessment, which implements a transportation debt assessment policy requiring the department to submit a debt load report in conjunction with the tentative work program;
- Creates s. 339.2825, F.S., entitled Approval of contractor-financed projects, which requires the department to notify the Governor and Legislature prior to advancing a

- project in the 5-year work program utilizing funds provided by a public-private partnership to be reimbursed as programmed in the adopted work program;
- Mandates certain actions by FDOT when they receive an inspection report which either recommends a limit on a bridge, or recommends closing a bridge;
 - Enhances FDOT's authority to establish tolls on certain future limited access facilities in the State Highway System;
 - Allows for bond issuance on high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes, with certain restrictions on usage;
 - Revises the definition of "economically feasible" as it relates to turnpike projects;
 - Allows private sector entities and off-system toll facilities to use FDOT's toll collection and video billing systems in order to increase toll revenues or add convenience or other value for its customers;
 - Mandates that the FDOT secretary designate a facility which meets the definition of an intermodal logistics center and has been designated as such in the local comprehensive plan as part of the Strategic Intermodal System, upon the facilities request; and
 - Provides a process for summary proceedings within 30 days for a challenge to a consolidated environmental resource permit or associated variance or a sovereign submerged lands authorization issued by the Department of Environmental Protection in connection with the state's deepwater ports.